

House Republican Press Release

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Klarides Votes for Breast Cancer Screening Bill



HARTFORD – Representative Themis Klarides (R-Derby) today voted in favor of a bill before the state House of Representatives that changes when health insurance policies must provide coverage for a comprehensive ultrasound screening of an entire breast or breasts for a woman.

Under current law, a policy must provide coverage if a physician recommends the screening for a woman classified as category 2, 3, 4, or 5 on the American College of Radiology's Breast Imaging Reporting and Database System (BI-RADS) mammogram reading scale. The bill instead requires coverage if a mammogram shows heterogeneous or dense breast tissue based on BI-RADS or a woman is considered at an increased risk of breast cancer because of her family history or her own prior breast cancer history, or other indications determined by her physician.

The bill was amended in the senate to allow an advanced-practice registered nurse to determine if a woman is at an increased risk of breast cancer.

Under current state law, health insurance policies must provide coverage for mammograms in an initial examination for women ages 35 to 39 and one examination every year for women age 40 and older. That coverage is subject to any policy provisions applicable to other covered services.

“This is an important expansion of the coverage we passed last year,” said Representative Klarides. “It is absolutely critical to survival rates that breast cancer be diagnosed as early as possible. Expanding the required coverage for mammograms increases the likelihood of early diagnosis, and makes it more likely that women who should get this examination do.”

The bill previously passed the state Senate on April 18th, and will now head to Governor M. Jodi Rell for her signature.